

## **FIRE PREVENTION PRACTICE #3.9**

August 25, 1999

TO: All Fire Prevention Personnel

FROM: Steve Zaccard, Fire Marshal

SUBJECT: SMOKE DETECTOR INSPECTIONS

"THIS PRACTICE IS TO SERVE AS A PROCEDURAL GUIDE FOR YOU TO FOLLOW. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS PRACTICE SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE FIRE MARSHAL THROUGH YOUR SUPERVISOR".

The correct inspection of smoke detectors goes beyond just depressing the test buttons. A non-functioning detector must be examined to determine why it does not work. If battery-operated, the detector may need to be opened to see if there is a battery and/or if the battery is connected or is dead.

Depending upon the results of your investigation, enforcement action may be required:

1. If the detector contains a dead battery, and the occupant has notified the owner of a non-functioning smoke detector, tag the owner for failure to maintain the smoke detectors. (MN Statute 299F.362, Subdivision 5.)
2. If the detector contains a dead battery, and the occupant has not notified the owner, issue immediate orders to the owner to repair the detector. Advise the occupant of his/her responsibility to notify the owner when a low battery tone sounds. (Saint Paul Legislative Code Section 39.03.)
3. If the battery is disconnected or missing, and obviously has been removed by the occupant, tag the occupant for tampering with the detector. (Uniform Fire Code Section 1001.7.4)

If a replacement battery is available, install it immediately.

cc: Gary Trudeau  
Cindy Menten

Issued: 5/25/89 (P22)  
Latest Revision: 8/25/99